

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

Youth Across Canada Speak Out on Youth Homelessness Prevention

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INCREMENTAL STEPS TOWARDS SOCIALIZING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION POLICY



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WHY PREVENTION?

Are we making significant headway on youth homelessness in Canada?

Are we ensuring that young people transition out of homelessness quickly, and that they do not become homeless again?

Are we stopping young people from becoming homeless?



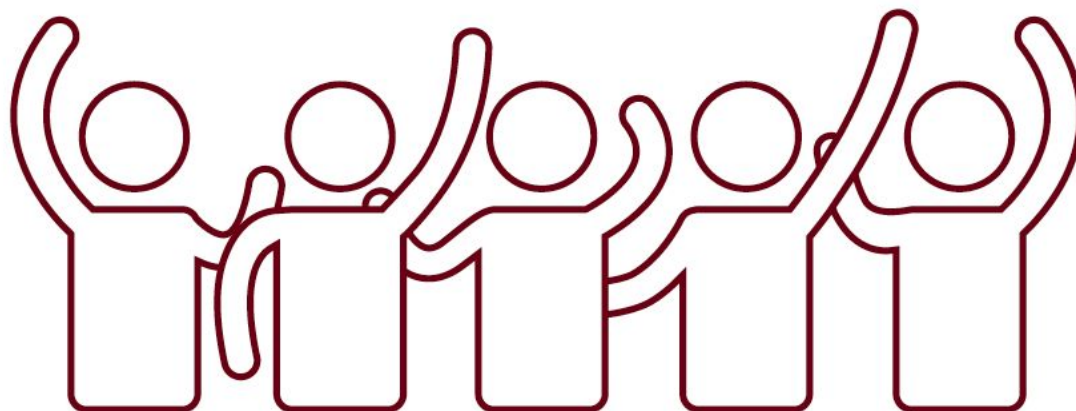
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CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUTH

12

communities

17

focus groups

7

provinces & territories

114

youth participants



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Streams of Engagement

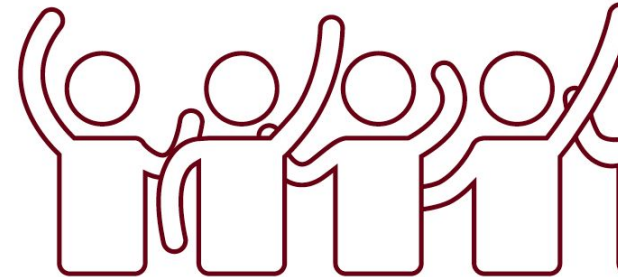
- Engagement with Indigenous Partners

- Engagement with Youth

Stage 1 *National consultation, 17 focus groups in 12 communities*

Stage 2 *Discussion & expansion on findings, in person meeting with youth*

Stage 3 *Report drafted with youth*



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YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Yellowknife, NT – 9

Toronto, ON – 10

Guelph, ON – 5

Hamilton, ON – 9

Lanark Country, ON – 7

Montreal, QC – 25

Kamloops, BC – 9

Vancouver, BC – 11

Winnipeg, MB – 1

Calgary, AB – 11

Edmonton, AB – 11

St. John's, NB – 5



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FOCUS GROUPS

- *What would have prevented you from experiencing homelessness?*
- *What kinds of programs or services would help prevent homelessness for young people who are at risk?*
- *Who should be involved in preventing homelessness for young people?*
- *What do you want to tell the Canadian government about preventing youth homelessness?*



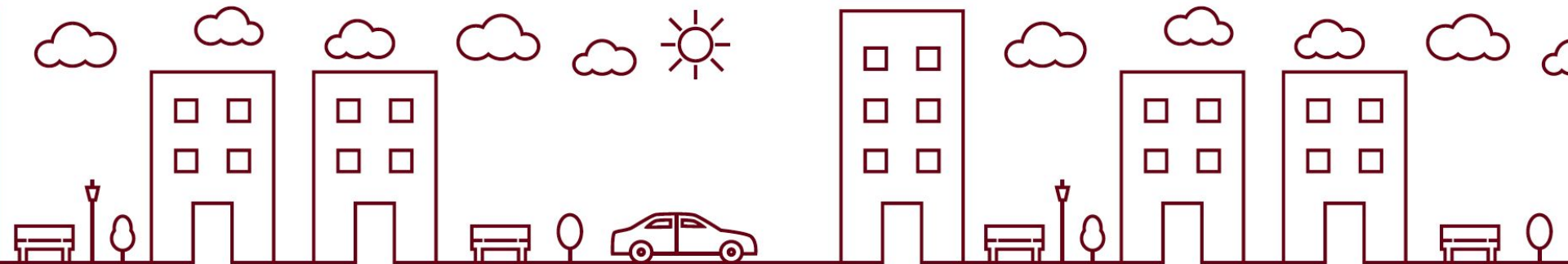
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WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION?

“Policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. It also means providing those who have been homeless with the necessary resources and supports to stabilize their housing, enhance integration and social inclusion, and ultimately reduce the risk of the recurrence of homelessness.”



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WHAT *ISN'T* HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION?

This definition also clarifies what prevention is *not*. Preventing homelessness must involve keeping a person housed, as well as immediately providing housing to anyone experiencing homelessness. While emergency services often provide a range of supports that build resilience, skills, and reduce the most negative impacts of homelessness, interventions that do not directly (or even indirectly) prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of homelessness cannot be considered prevention. Similarly, interventions such as life skills, addictions supports, or mental health services can only be considered prevention if they are provided in the context of immediate access to housing.



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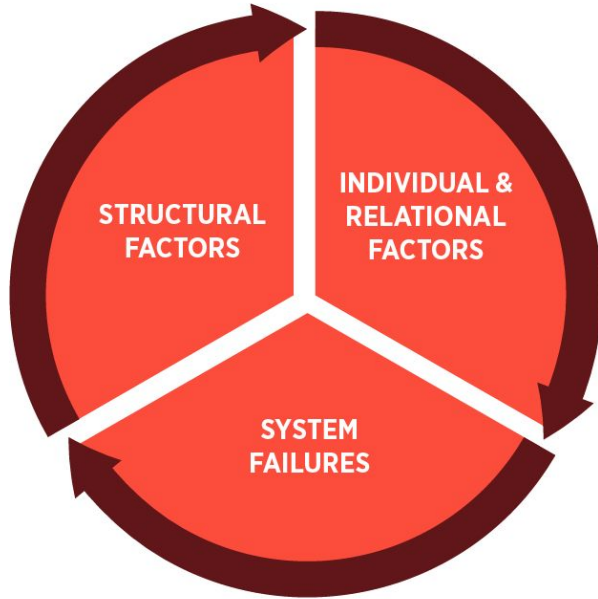
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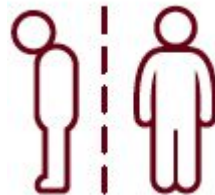
WHAT SHOULD WE FOCUS ON?



Structural Prevention



Systems Prevention



Prevention of Individual & Relational Causes



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KEY FINDINGS

Youth's Perspectives on Prevention

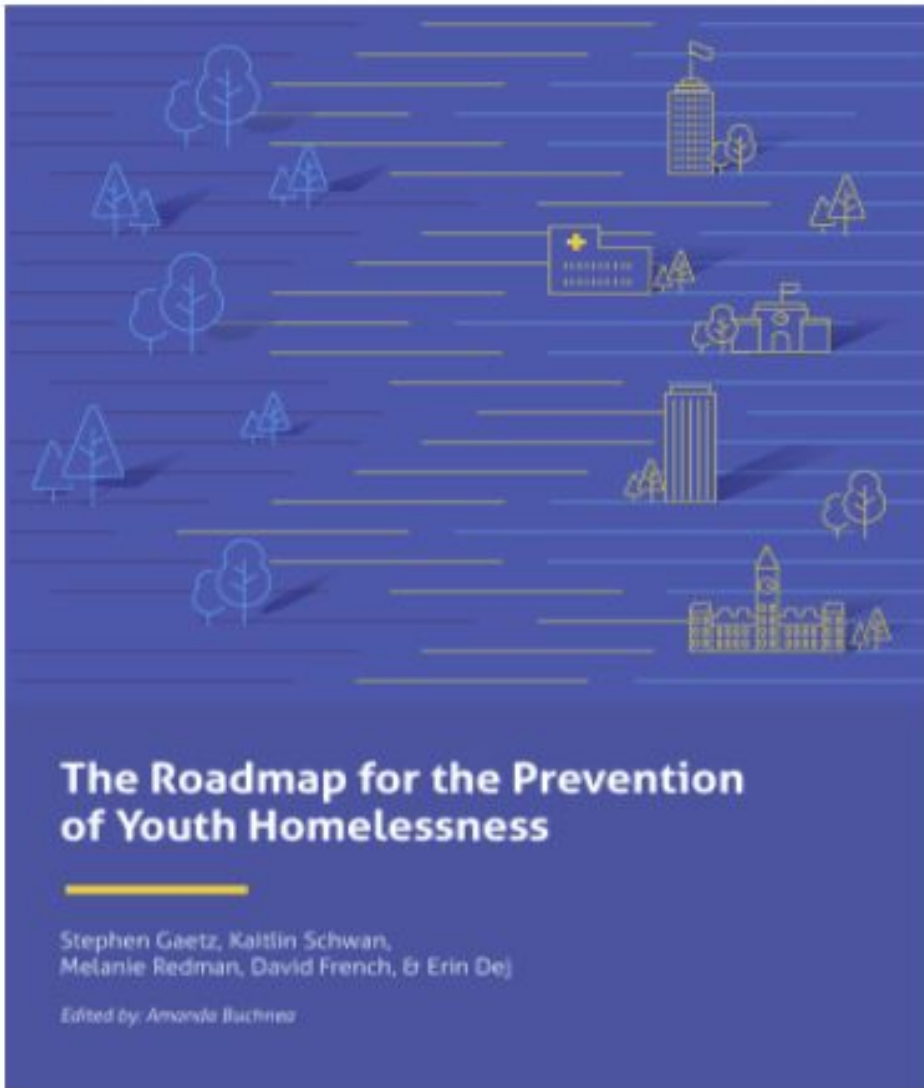
- We're waiting too long to intervene
- System Failures
- Housing for Youth
- Colonialism
- Equity & Discrimination
- Professional Conduct
- Youth Voice



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Implications for Policy/Programs



Federal

- Leadership
- Alignment
- Revision
- Reconciliation

Provincial / Territorial

- Implementation
- Prioritization
- Accountability
- Intersectionality

Municipal / Community

- Refocus
- Prioritization
- Partnerships
- Openness



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Implications for Policy/Programs

If higher levels of government provide a legislative and policy framework, as well as funding to support homelessness prevention, the homelessness sector and other community-based services will still have a key role in supporting marginalized and socially excluded populations.



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Youth Homelessness Sector

- Guide community plans
- Dismantle barriers to access
- Prioritize prevention and early intervention
- Ground approach in human rights
- Support frontline staff to best serve diverse youth
- Engage youth
- Call in other systems

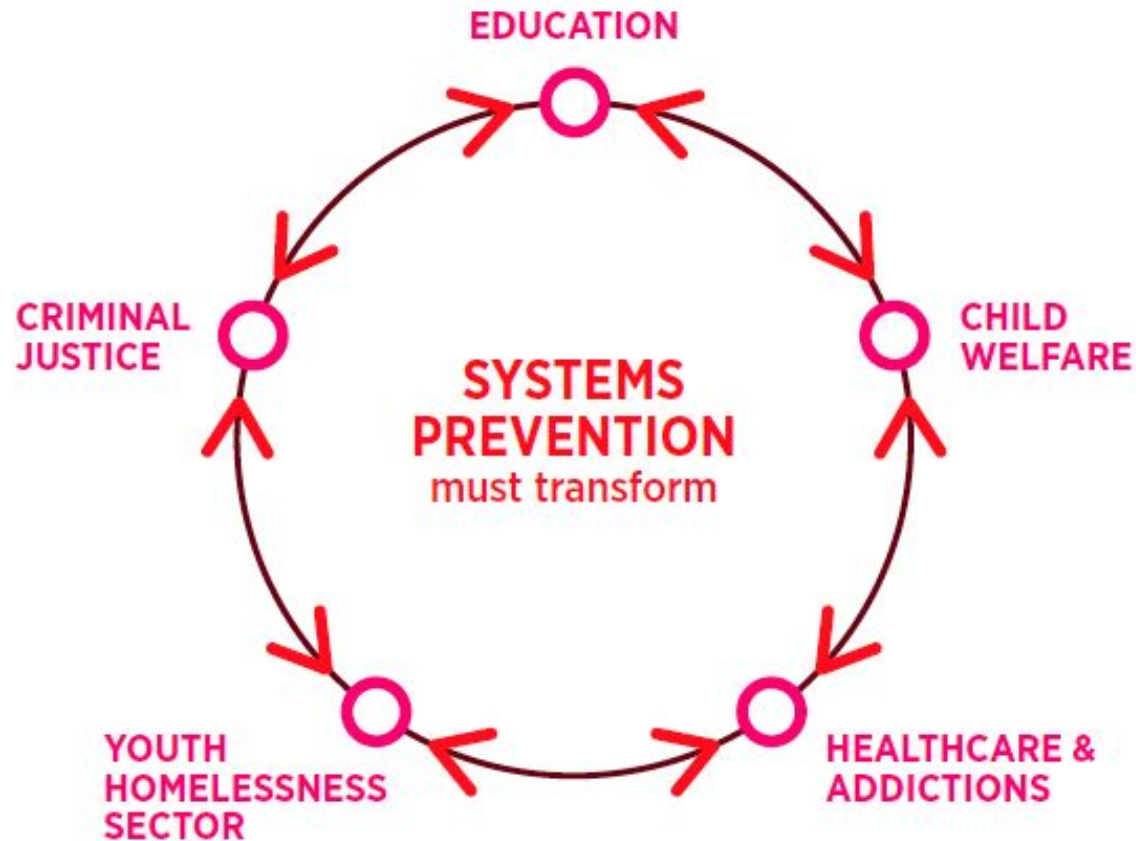


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Calling “in” Other Systems



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HOMELESSNESS!**
IF YOU WANT TO

**END
YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS!**
IF YOU WANT TO

BENEDICT

FRESH DRINKS ON
TIMES SQUARE

DRINK
Coca-Cola

CHILDREN



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